

Application No. 09/975,588

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In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the  
2 computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer including a first audio source  
3 and a second audio source, the computer operable to output an electrical signal to the speaker  
4 from the first audio source and from the second audio source, the speaker operable to convert the  
5 electrical signal into a stimulus, the method comprising:
  - 6 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
  - 7 b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the computer  
8 program muting the first audio source without user intervention;
  - 9 c) generating a stimulus; and
  - 10 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether the user heard the stimulus.
- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the Internet.
- 1 3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an email.
- 1 4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes  
2 muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box.
- 1 5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes  
2 muting the first audio source by setting the value of a volume control.
- 1 6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes  
2 muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box and by setting the value of a  
3 volume control.

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1 7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes  
2 muting a microphone audio input.

1 8. (original) The method of claim 1, further including:

- 2 a) sending first data to the server;
- 3 b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and
- 4 c) sending second data to the computer.

1 9. (currently amended) A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the  
2 computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer including a first audio source  
3 and a second audio source, the computer operable to output an electrical signal to the speaker  
4 from the first audio source and from the second audio source, the speaker operable to convert the  
5 electrical signal into a stimulus, the method comprising:

- 6 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
- 7 b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the computer  
8 program storing a value that indicates whether the first audio source was muted and if  
9 the stored value indicates that the first audio source was not muted, then muting the  
10 first audio source without user intervention;
- 11 c) generating a stimulus;
- 12 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether the user heard the stimulus;  
13 and
- 14 e) if the stored value indicates that the first audio source was not muted, then un-muting  
15 the first audio source.

1 10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the Internet.

1 11. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an email.

1 12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box.

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- 1 13. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a volume control.
- 1 14. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box and by setting the value  
3 of a volume control.
- 1 15. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes muting a microphone audio input.
- 1 16. (original) The method of claim 9, further including:  
2 a) sending first data to the server;  
3 b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and  
4 c) sending second data to the computer.
- 1 17. (currently amended) A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions  
2 that, when executed by a computer system, tests the hearing of a user by:  
3 a) muting an audio source without user intervention;  
4 b) generating a stimulus; and  
5 c) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether the user heard the stimulus.
- 1 18. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 17, wherein the act of muting the  
2 ~~first~~ audio source includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box.
- 1 19. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 17, wherein the act of muting the  
2 ~~first~~ audio source includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a volume control.
- 1 20. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 17, wherein the act of muting the  
2 ~~first~~ audio source includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box and  
3 by setting the value of a volume control.

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1 21. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 17, wherein the act of muting the  
2 first audio source includes muting a microphone audio input.

1 22. (currently amended) A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions  
2 that, when executed by a computer system, tests the hearing of a user by:

- 3 a) storing a value that indicates whether a first audio source was muted;  
4 b) if the first audio source was not muted, then muting the first audio source without  
5 user intervention;  
6 c) generating a stimulus;  
7 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether the user heard the stimulus;  
8 and if the stored value indicates that the first audio source was not muted, then un-  
9 muting the first audio source.

1 23. (original) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of muting the first audio  
2 source includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box.

1 24. (original) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of muting the first audio  
2 source includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a volume control.

1 25. (original) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of muting the first audio  
2 source includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box and by setting  
3 the value of a volume control.

1 26. (original) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of muting the first audio  
2 source includes muting a microphone audio input.

1 27. (currently amended) A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system,  
2 the computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer including a first audio  
3 source and a second audio source, the computer operable to output an electrical signal to the  
4 speaker from the first audio source and from the second audio source, the speaker operable to  
5 convert the electrical signal into a stimulus, the method comprising:

- 6 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;

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- 7           b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the computer
- 8           program un-muting the first audio source without user intervention;
- 9           c) generating a stimulus; and
- 10          d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether the user heard the stimulus.

1   28. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2   includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the Internet.

1   29. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2   includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an email.

1   30. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2   includes un-muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box.

1   31. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2   includes un-muting the first audio source by setting the value of a volume control.

1   32. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2   includes un-muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box and by setting the  
3   value of a volume control.

1   33. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2   includes un-muting a MIDI input.

1   34. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2   includes un-muting a WAVE input.

1   35. (original) The method of claim 27, further including:  
2           a) sending first data to the server;  
3           b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and  
4           c) sending second data to the computer.

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1 36. (currently amended) A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions  
2 that, when executed by a computer system, tests the hearing of a user by:

- 3 a) un-muting an audio source without user intervention;  
4 b) generating a stimulus; and  
5 c) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether the user heard the stimulus.

1 37. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 36, wherein the act of un-muting  
2 the ~~first~~ audio source includes un-muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check  
3 box.

1 38. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 36, wherein the act of un-muting  
2 the ~~first~~ audio source includes un-muting the first audio source by setting the value of a volume  
3 control.

1 39. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 36, wherein the act of un-muting  
2 the ~~first~~ audio source includes un-muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check  
3 box and by setting the value of a volume control.

1 40. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 36, wherein the act of un-muting  
2 the ~~first~~ audio source includes un-muting a WAVE input.

1 41. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 36, wherein the act of un-muting  
2 the ~~first~~ audio source includes un-muting a MIDI input.

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